

Gunshot & Sharp Instrument Cases, MA Residents, 1994-2003

Injury Cases Reported by Hospital Emergency Departments to the Weapon Related Injury Surveillance System¹

MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS	Number of Cases Reported by Year									
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Number of Injury Cases Reported										
Gunshot Cases	980	828	666	544	520	533	512	603	636	760
Sharp Instrument Cases ²	1885	1684	1553	1353	1253	1287	1312	1361	1264	1220
TOTAL CASE COUNT	2865	2512	2219	1897	1773	1820	1824	1964	1900	1980
Rate per 100,000 residents	47	41	36	31	28	29	29	31	30	31
Gunshot Cases by Injury Intent										
Assault-related	662	526	393	312	318	375	328	379	400	479
Firearms	625	503	337	270	291	339	286	335	343	402
Nonpowder guns (bb or pellet gun)	37	20	43	25	20	30	34	42	48	69
Other gun type	0	3	13	17	7	6	8	2	9	8
Unintentional/accidental	163	155	166	158	117	94	130	138	145	174
Firearms	69	65	55	56	44	25	29	20	28	20
Nonpowder guns (bb or pellet gun)	92	86	108	96	71	64	94	114	114	154
Other gun type	2	4	3	6	2	5	7	4	3	0
Intentional Self-Inflicted ³	47	47	35	26	31	26	21	26	15	27
Firearms	44	43	32	22	30	24	20	23	15	24
Nonpowder guns (bb or pellet gun)	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	3	0	3
Other gun type	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Intent is Unknown/Unspecified	108	100	72	48	54	38	33	60	76	80
Firearms	82	68	53	30	42	25	14	31	43	48
Nonpowder guns (bb or pellet gun)	26	32	17	16	11	13	16	28	31	31
Other gun type	0	0	2	2	1	0	3	1	2	1
TOTAL GUN COUNT	980	828	666	544	520	533	512	603	636	760
Rate per 100,000 residents	16.0	13.5	10.8	8.7	8.3	8.4	8.1	9.5	10.0	12.0
FIREARM Injury Cases ONLY										
TOTAL FIREARM COUNT	820	679	477	378	407	413	349	409	429	494
Rate per 100,000 residents	13.4	11.1	7.7	6.1	6.5	6.5	5.5	6.4	6.8	7.8
ASSAULT-RELATED FIREARM COUNT	625	503	337	270	291	339	286	335	343	402
Rate per 100,000 residents	10.2	8.2	5.4	4.3	4.6	5.4	4.5	5.3	5.4	6.3
UNINTENTIONAL FIREARM COUNT	69	65	55	56	44	25	29	20	28	20
Rate per 100,000 residents	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3
ASSAULT Injury Cases ONLY										
Sharp Instrument Cases	1885	1684	1553	1353	1253	1287	1312	1361	1264	1220
Gunshot Cases	662	526	393	312	318	375	328	379	400	479
TOTAL ASSAULT COUNT	2547	2210	1946	1665	1571	1662	1640	1740	1664	1699
Rate per 100,000 residents	41.7	36.0	31.5	26.7	25.0	26.3	25.8	27.4	26.2	26.8

Source: Weapon Related Injury Surveillance System, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

• Cases are defined as:

- any gunshot wound treated in a hospital emergency department (e.g., firearm, non-powder gun, other gun), or
- a sharp instrument wound intentionally inflicted by another person or sustained during a violent incident

• All cases reported regardless of subsequent disposition are included in the counts (e.g., admitted, died, discharged, etc.).

• Counts do not reflect deaths that are not first transported to a hospital emergency department for treatment.

• Rates are calculated based on population estimates developed by the MA Institute for Statistics on Economic Research, the MA Department of Public Health and the U.S. Census.

¹ Based on past record reviews, the statewide hospital reporting level is estimated to be between 70 and 80%.

² WRISS captures gun-related injuries of any intent, but only sharp instrument wounds of an assaultive nature.

³ Most intentional self-inflicted firearm injuries result in death. They are less likely to be treated in an ED and consequently less likely to be captured in WRISS.

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